Phila.d Feb. 7. 1853

Mr Garrison

22 My Dear Friend — I know your time is very fully occupied, so I will not trouble you with a long epistle. What I wish to say, in brief, is, that if you should happen to hear of any place in the country northward, where a situation is open for one of my experience, &c. I should like you to bear me in mind. I do not find things go along so swimmingly with me in this city as I could wish. Indeed I have been going backward ever since I came here, and there is reason to fear that if I keep along on the same course much longer, I shall get to the wall. Besides, the climate does not very well suit either Eliza or myself. We find the summers especially relaxing and unsuited to our English constitutions. By the way, do you know anything about the "Raritan Bay Union"? From the names on the Prospectus I should judge that the Association would be well conducted, and the society enlightened, intelligent and agreeable. A printing establishment will of course form a portion of the operations carried on there. I have had some ~~thought~~ idea of joining that Association, and think that I might possibly be useful in helping to carry out its objects. There is no one here whom I know who can give me the desired information on that subject, and I wish to do nothing rashly. If you can spare the time to pen a line or two, I should be obliged if you would give me your opinion.

We have had two slave cases (or rather I should say a slave case and a kidnapping case) in this city lately, accounts of which have doubtless reached you. Aside from the Anti-Slavery Society, I find very little genuine regard for freedom amongst those with ~~out~~ whom I associate

here. Oceans of the spurious while we have - "Free country!" "Glorious Union!" &c. Mountains of selfish patriotism, but very little of what Kossuth ought to have meant when he spoke of "liberty as a principle." When I hear any of these cackling patriots talking about liberty, I feel strongly tempted to repeat to them the prayer of the Calvinistic Scot "O Lord, bless me and my wife, my son John and his wife, we four and no more. Amen." Cold-blooded heartless indifference to the sufferings of the slave, and a supercilious increasing prejudice against the free colored man are the prevailing sentiments. I have come to entertain a very gloomy view of the ultimate prospects of this people. Destitute of conscience, with no fear of God nor regard for man, unscrupulous, rapacious, having only the one object of acquiring wealth in view, what possibly can be their end but destruction? When my thoughts turn upon this subject, that fiercely denunciatory passage of the Apostle Paul, in which he speaks of certain men as being "heady, high-minded, unthankful, unholy, without natural affection," &c. constantly seems to my mind, with a a terrible, though unwelcome persuasion of its applicability to the ruling majority of this country. And what has done it? What has brought about this lamentable state of demoralization? Slavery! slavery! nothing but slavery! "Delenda est Carthago!" persisted the stern old Roman. Much more reason have you to urge that slavery must be rooted out, lest the nation perish. Republican France has become a despotism. Is there any virtue in the people of this country that should prevent their following the example? Is there not an equal amount of vain-glory, a similar desire for conquest and national aggrandisement, the same worship of so-called heroes and military chieftains here as in France? Where then is the difference? Nothing is wanting but the "Man and the Man;" and they will surely come, if the little leaven of righteousness does not prevent.

What of the Spiritual Manifestations? I am sadly puzzled. Strange things occur here every day, which I need not relate, ~~to you~~ as you doubtless hear of many similar in Boston. I should like to be able to connect the present life with the future by something more tangible than the unauthenticated dogmas of theologians; this rapping phenomenon, however, scarcely as yet supplies the deperency. All the evidence I can muster leaves about the subject an impenetrable mist of inconclusiveness and uncertainty. ~~For~~ all that, I have to confess that these manifestations have had the effect of convincing me that, as Hamlet says, "There are more things between Heaven and Earth, than are dreamt of in your philosophy." I look for further revelations or for some scientific explanation. Which will it be?

Mrs. Dick sends her kind regards to yourself and Mrs. Garrison

Accept assurances of regard and esteem from

Yours very respectfully
John Dick

P.S. If you hear of anything worth the trouble of communicating, or if you have anything to say, (which will be at all times welcome) address to me at the Anti-Slavery Office; as I live in Camden, and the post office arrangements there are somewhat uncertain